

Message Text

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ACTION FEA-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /093 W

----- 092311

R 071330Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6391

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP, ENRG, 84

SUB: TRAVEL OF FEA ADMINISTRATOR ZARB

REF: STATE 078149

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT OF FEA ADMINISTRATOR ZARB. CONTROL OFFICER WILL BE PETROLEUM OFFICER DAVID PATTERSON, WHO WILL MEET AND ASSIST.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS WITH MINISTERS AMOUZEGAR AND ANSARY, NIOC GENERAL MANAGING DIRECTOR EGHBAL, AND OTHER KEY NIOC OFFICIALS EGHBAL BELIEVES ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD MEET, E.G., REZA FALLAH, PARVIZ MINA. WE ARE CONSIDERING ASKING EGHBAL WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE ADMINISTROATOR TO MEET WITH A LARGER GROUP OF NIOC STAFF TO DISCUSS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ON U.S. ENERGY OUTLOOK. (COULD DEPARTMENT OR FEA SEND IN ADVANCE OF VISIT A FEW COPIES OF THE NEW ENERGY OUTLOOK REPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION HERE?)

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE MEETING WITH PM HOVEYDA, WHOSE INVOLVEMENT IN ENERGY MATTERS IA AT BEST MARGINAL, WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USEFUL WAY TO SPEND ADMINISTRATOR'S LIMITED TIME HERE. MORE

GERMANE, WE BELIEVE, WOULD BE VISITS WITH NIGC (GAS COMPANY) MANAGING DIRECTOR TAGHI MOSSADEGHI AND NPC (PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY) MANAGING DIRECTOR BAQER MOSTOFI. BRIEF ESSENTIALLY PROTOCOLARY VISIT WITH MIN ENERGY IRAJ VAHIDI MIGHT BE INDICATED. WILL SEND FINAL SCHEDULE IN NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS.

4. VARIOUS IRANIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE NEW ENERGY ACT, ABOUT US PLANS FOR LNG IMPORTS, ABOUT OIL COMPANY DIVESTITURE MOVES IN THE CONGRESS, AND ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY ALTERNATIVES. BASIC IRANIAN VIEWS ON ENERGY PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN AMPLY REPORTED BY THIS EMBASSY. IN BRIEF, THESE VIEWS ARE (A) THAT OPEC WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO CONTROL THE OIL MARKET FOR YEARS TO COME, (B) THAT THIS IS JUST AND NECESSARY FOR OPEC NATIONS, WHO MUST DEVELOP MATURE ECONOMIES BEFORE THEIR DEPLETING RESOURCE IS EXHAUSTED, (C) THAT FOR GOOD OF WORLD, OIL MUST BE PRICED HIGH ENOUGH TO STIMULATE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY (RELATIVE INACTION OF US, THEY ARE INCLINED TO THINK, PROVES OIL PRICES ARE NOT YET HIGH ENOUGH), AND (D) OIL PRICES SHOULD BE INDEXED TO COST OF OPEC IMPORTS

IRANIANS ARE OPEN TO DISCUSSION OF THESE VIEWPOINTS WITH US OFFICIALS, AS LONG AS THEIR INTERLOCUTOR IS TACTFUL AND SHOWS SOME UNDERSTANDING

NO ONE, HOWEVER, HAS YET CONVINCED THEM THEY ARE WRONG.

5. JOSEPH STORY, OF COURSE, IS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH IRANIAN SCENE. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HIS ADVANCE VISIT BUT DO NOT SEE IT AS ESSENTIAL. CONTROL OFFICER PATTERSON HAS TENTATIVE PLANS TO BE OUT OF TOWN APRIL 27-30 ON VISIT TO OILFIELDS IN SOUTH.

6. WE NOTE THAT FEA PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR WILL ACCOMPANY MR. ZARB. WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON PRESS HANDLING OF VISIT, E.G., AIRPORT STATEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCE, ETC.

7. WE ECHO AMBASSADOR PORTER'S VIEWS RE 4 SECURITY SPECIALISTS DISCUSSED PARA 2 OF JIDDA 2535.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN03513
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760131-0945
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760486/aaaacves.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION FEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 78149
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL OF FEA ADMINISTRATOR ZARB
TAGS: OVIP, ENRG, IR, (ZARB, FRANK G)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006